

SARAH – SUPPORTED LIVING



Sarah is a lovely young woman who lives on Vancouver Island. She is the fourth oldest of a family of 19 children. Since turning 18, she has lived in many different places including her own trailer on her parents' property, two family care homes, and a group home. Sarah describes the group home as too restrictive for her needs. Due to licensing requirements and the needs of others in the home, her choices were very limited. She was not allowed to walk down to get the mail and did not have access to the kitchen area. The washrooms had to be locked at all times so Sarah had to ask staff when she wanted to use the washroom.

During October 2006, we met with Sarah and her family. They were excited about the possibility of developing a plan that would allow Sarah to have the independence she desired. Her parents set up a registered society, developed a proposal for funding, and began remodelling a duplex to create an apartment for Sarah. Things happened very quickly from this point and Sarah moved into her apartment during December 2006. Her home is in a very nice community and on a bus route. There are stores and a bank within walking distance. She continues to attend a day program during the week and receives support at home from staff who are helping her gain the skills and confidence she requires to live independently. Sarah hopes to get a paid job and dreams of working with animals. She is thriving within her new home and recently spent her first evening without overnight staff.

Sarah and her circle of support are dedicated to making this work. Sarah is on the way to making all of her dreams come true. When you ask her very large and wonderful family how they feel about this transition, they will tell you that "this is more than we had ever hoped!"